

Mountain State Reporter

RELEASED: AUGUST 2007

VOLUME 20, NUMBER 8

IN THIS ISSUE:
JUNE RED MEAT PRODUCTION
CHICKEN AND EGGS
EGG PRODUCTS
CATTLE
CROP PRODUCTION
AGRICULTURAL LAND VALUES
AGRICULTURAL CASH RENTS
PASTURE AND RANGE MAP

JUNE RED MEAT PRODUCTION

West Virginia - Commercial red meat production during June 2007 totaled 300,000 pounds. This was up 17 percent from June 2006 but down 10 percent from May 2007 production. Commercial red meat production is the carcass weight after slaughter including beef, veal, pork, and lamb and mutton. Individual commodity production is total live weight of commercial slaughter.

Commercial cattle slaughter totaled 429,000 pounds live weight, up 23 percent from June 2006. Cattle slaughter totaled 400 head, up 100 head from the previous year. The average live weight, at 1,194 pounds, was up 69 pounds from a year ago.

Commercial calf slaughter was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

Commercial hog slaughter totaled 114,000 pounds live weight, up 28 percent from last year. Hog slaughter totaled 500 head, up 100 head from the previous year. The average live weight, at 245 pounds, was up 33 pounds from the previous year.

Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

United States - Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.03 billion pounds in June, down 3 percent from the 4.14 billion pounds produced in June 2006.

Beef production, at 2.35 billion pounds, was 4 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 3.08 million head, down 3 percent from June 2006. The average live weight was down 14 pounds from the previous year, at 1,250 pounds.

Veal production totaled 11.2 million pounds, 10 percent below June a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 61,100 head, up 4 percent from June 2006. The average live weight was down 45 pounds from last year, at 308 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.65 billion pounds, down 1 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.30 million head, down 1 percent from June 2006. The average live weight was unchanged from the previous year, at 267 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 13.7 million pounds, was down 5 percent from June 2006. Sheep slaughter totaled 200,400 head, 5 percent below last year. The average live weight was 137 pounds, up 2 pounds from June a year ago.

January to June 2007 commercial red meat production was 23.6 billion pounds, up 1 percent from 2006. Accumulated beef production was up 1 percent from last year, veal was up 6 percent, pork was up 2 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 3 percent.

June 2006 contained 22 weekdays (including no holidays) and 4 Saturdays. June 2007 contained 21 weekdays (including no holidays) and 5 Saturdays.

CHICKEN AND EGGS

United States - Egg production totaled 7.36 billion during June 2007, down 1 percent from last year. Production included 6.24 billion table eggs, and 1.12 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.05 billion were broiler-type and 65 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during June 2007 averaged 339 million, down 1 percent from last year. June egg production per 100 layers was 2,169 eggs, up slightly from June 2006.

All layers in the U.S. on July 1, 2007 totaled 339 million, down 1 percent from last year. The 339 million layers consisted of 279 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 57.0 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.75 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on July 1, 2007, averaged 72.0 eggs per 100 layers, down 1 percent from July 1, 2006.

Egg-type chicks hatched during June 2007 totaled 40.0 million, up 7 percent from June 2006. Eggs in incubators totaled 33.4 million on July 1, 2007, up 6 percent from a year ago. Domestic placements of **egg-type pullet chicks** for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 300,000 during June 2007, up 52 percent from June 2006.

Broiler-type chicks hatched during June 2007 totaled 810 million, up 3 percent from June 2006. Eggs in incubators totaled 668 million on July 1, 2007, up 3 percent from a year earlier.

Leading breeders placed 7.55 million broiler-type pullet chicks for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during June 2007, down 1 percent from June 2006.

EGG PRODUCTS

United States - Shell eggs broken totaled 171 million dozen during June 2007, down 3 percent from June a year ago, and 3 percent below the 177 million broken last month.

During calendar year 2007 through June, shell eggs broken totaled 982 million dozen, down 3 percent from the comparable period in 2006. To date, cumulative total edible liquid from eggs broken in 2007 was 1.29 billion pounds, down 2 percent from 2006.

CATTLE

United States - All cattle and calves in the United States as of July 1, 2007, totaled 104.8 million head, slightly below the 105.2 million on July 1, 2006 but 1 percent above the 104.2 million two years ago.

All cows and heifers that have calved, at 42.5 million, were down slightly from the 42.6 million on July 1, 2006 but unchanged from two years ago.

Beef cows, at 33.4 million, were down slightly from July 1, 2006 and July 1, 2005. **Milk cows**, at 9.15 million, were unchanged from July 1, 2006 but up 1 percent from two years ago.

Other class estimates on July 1, 2007 and the changes from July 1, 2006, are as follows: **All heifers** 500 pounds and over, 16.6 million, unchanged. **Beef replacement heifers**, 4.7 million, down 6 percent. **Milk replacement heifers**, 3.9 million, up 3 percent. **Other heifers**, 8.0 million, up 3 percent. **Steers** weighing 500 pounds and over, 14.9 million, down 1 percent. **Bulls** weighing 500 pounds and over, 2.1 million, unchanged. **Calves under 500 pounds**, 28.7 million, down 1 percent. **All cattle and calves on feed** for slaughter, 12.3 million, down 2 percent.

CROP PRODUCTION

West Virginia - All Other Hay production is forecast at 798,000 tons, down 15 percent from 2006. The area harvested is expected to total 570,000 acres, up 15,000 acres from 2006. Average yield per acre is forecast at 1.40 tons, down 0.3 of a ton from 2006.

Based on August 1 conditions, **apple** production is forecast at 80 million pounds, down 11 percent or 10 million pounds from 2006.

Peach production of 4,000 tons is carried forward from the July forecast. The forecast is down 23 percent, or 1,200 tons from the 2006 crop, and down 1,500 tons from the 2005 crop.

United States, August 1, 2007 Forecast, With 2006 Comparisons:

Corn for grain production – 13.1 billion bushels, up 24 percent.

Corn yield – 152.8 bushels per acre, up 3.7 bushels.

Oats production – 98.3 million bushels, up 5 percent.

Winter wheat production - 1.54 billion bushels, up 18 percent.

Alfalfa and Alfalfa Mixtures hay production – 69.9 million tons, down 2 percent.

Other hay production – 75.3 million tons, up 8 percent.

Apple production – 9.28 billion pounds, down 7 percent.

Peach production (Including Clingstone) – 1.03 million tons, up 2 percent.

Peach production (Excluding Clingstone) – 577.0 thousand tons, down 11 percent.

All tobacco production – 775.0 million pounds, up 7 percent.

Burley tobacco production – 211.1 million pounds, down 3 percent.

Soybean production – 2.63 billion bushels, down 18 percent.

Barley production – 223.5 million bushels, up 24 percent.

AGRICULTURAL LAND VALUES

United States - Farm real estate values, a measurement of the value of all land and buildings on farms, averaged \$2,160 per acre on January 1, 2007, up 14 percent from 2006. The \$2,160 per acre is a record high and \$260 more than a year earlier.

Both cropland and pasture values for 2007 are record highs. Cropland values rose by 13 percent to \$2,700 per acre, up from the previous high of \$2,390 in 2006. Pasture value rose by 16 percent to \$1,160 per acre.

The **increase** in farm real estate values continues to be driven by a combination of many factors, which include strong commodity prices and farm programs, outside investments, favorable interest rates and tax incentives, and continued commercial and residential development. Livestock prices and recreational use remain the predominant influences that increase pasture land values.

Regional increases in the average value of farm real estate ranged from 9 percent in the Southeast region to 18 percent in the Mountain region. The highest farm real estate values remained in the Northeast region, where development pressure continued to push the average value to \$5,000 per acre. The Northern Plains region had the lowest farm real estate value, at \$961 per acre, up 14 percent from the previous year.

The **Lake region** had the highest percentage increase in **cropland value**, up 15.7 percent from 2006. In the Corn Belt region cropland values rose 15 percent, to \$3,720 per acre. The Southern Plains region also increased 15 percent from the previous year, to \$1,330 per acre.

The **Pacific region** had the highest average percentage increase in **pasture value**, 29 percent above 2006. In the Southern Plains and Mountain regions, which account for more than half of the pasture in the U.S., pasture values per acre increased 25 percent and 18 percent, respectively.

AGRICULTURAL CASH RENTS

United States - Cash rents per acre paid to landlords for cropland rose \$5.50 (6.9 percent), while pasture rents increased \$1.20 (11 percent) for the 2007 crop and grazing year. Cropland cash rents paid in 2007 averaged \$85.00 per acre, compared with \$79.50 per acre for 2006. Pasture cash rents averaged \$12.00 per acre, \$1.20 higher than 2006. The increases in cropland and pasture land rental rates continue to reflect producers' optimism following strong commodity prices.

Cropland cash rents reported in 2007 increased in all regions. The Mountain region had the highest percentage increase for cropland, 20 percent above 2006. Cropland cash rents increased \$7.00 per acre to \$126.00 in the Corn Belt region and \$4.50 per acre to \$58.00 in the Northern Plains region. The Corn Belt and Northern Plains regions account for slightly more than one half of cash rented cropland acreage in the U.S.

The **major corn and soybean producing States** of Illinois, Indiana, and Iowa experienced increases of 6.8, 8.1, and 5.3, percent respectively, for cropland cash rents. Illinois, Indiana, and Iowa cropland cash rents averaged \$141.00, \$120.00, and \$140.00 per acre, respectively.

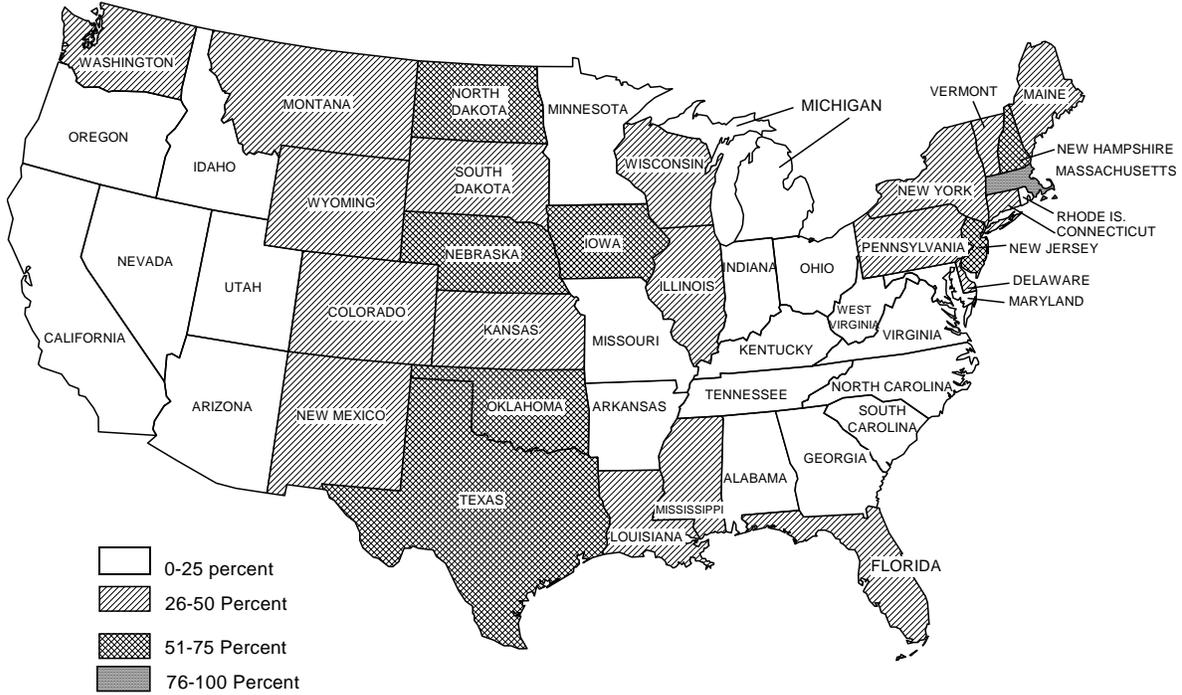
Pasture rent in the Northern Plains, Southern Plains, and Mountain regions, which account for nearly 85 percent of the cash rented pasture acreage in the U.S., increased by \$1.50, 60 cents, and \$2.20 per acre, respectively. The **Corn Belt region** had the highest cash rent for pasture in the U.S.

SEPTEMBER AG SURVEY ANNOUNCEMENT

West Virginia Agricultural Statistics will be conducting the September Agricultural Survey from August 30 - September 14. Representatives from our office will be contacting farmers by telephone and personal interview. Interviewers will be collecting data for the 2007 winter wheat crop and grain stocks.

The survey provides information necessary to make objective, reliable, and comprehensive estimates that are essential to an orderly agricultural marketing system. Only a sample of farmers in West Virginia will be selected for the survey and those farmers will be notified by mail. **Thank you for your continued cooperation and support.**

Pasture and Range Condition, Percent Rating Good or Better
Week Ending August 26, 2007



NEXT ISSUE:
Red Meat Production
Chicken & Eggs
Poultry Slaughter
Turkeys Raised
Crop Production

GUS R. DOUGLASS, COMMISSIONER
DALE R. KING, DIRECTOR

United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service
West Virginia Department of Agriculture
1900 Kanawha Boulevard East
Charleston, West Virginia 25305